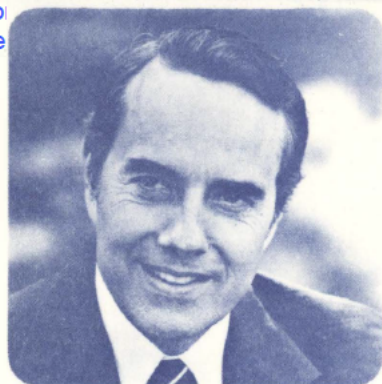


BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1980

CONTACT: BILL KATS, BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8947, -8953

TITAN ACCIDENT 'UNDERLINES THE NEED FOR SENATE HEARINGS,' DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole personally hand-delivered a letter to Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Stennis (D-Miss.) requesting hearings on the safety and effectiveness of the Titan II missile system, this past Tuesday.

Dole's recent request came in the wake of an accident Tuesday morning which caused 12 families in the Potwin, Kansas, area to be evacuated following a missile oxidizer leak.

Following is the text of the Dole letter:

Dear John:

Last October 1, Senator Kassebaum and I wrote you to express our concerns regarding the safety and effectiveness of the Titan II missile system. We requested that the Armed Services Committee hold hearings to address questions surrounding the Titan II missile. Your response indicated a sensitivity to our concerns, but you stated that hearings were unlikely to be scheduled.

I would like to reiterate my request for hearings. The questions which Senator Kassebaum and I raised persist. Kansans continue to worry about the safety of the Titan II. This morning yet another leak at a Titan II site near Potwin, Kansas led to the evacuation of a two-mile radius. The facts remain unclear. However, the accident does once again underline the need for Senate hearings on the safety and effectiveness of this system. I hope that you and your committee could reconsider your earlier decision in light of continuing events.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate